

Wingham Dec. 8, '39.

Dear Miss Weston,

Some ten or fifteen days ago, we were made very happy by the reception of a packet from you which contained treasures for us all. I have not acknowledged it before for I have hoped that in the general whirl of things we should be whirled together, & occupy very nearly the same space for a few hours at least. But in that I am disappointed, & now must give up the hope of meeting for a long time, for our school commences tomorrow & yours, I see by the Transcript, began last Thursday. But thanks to the inventors of letters & paper; &c. we may exchange a few ideas upon paper & learn a little of each others doings & purposes. You told us that you should be in Weymouth the last of Thanksgiving week, & we should have gone over to see you on Friday, but we expected company on that day from the City, & did not like to leave home. They came & were with us until Monday, & after that I presumed you were in Boston. We were quite entertained with your account of the Fair, & of the miracle that is going on with the Articles that were contributed. I hope they will multiply and increase like the loaves & fishes that fed the five thousand. & that the money that is obtained from them will enrich every slave in the land. It struck me Miss Weston the other day after talking with Mr. May upon Fairs, & hearing him express some fears of them, that it might be well to have a shop in Boston, filled with articles contributed by Abolitionists. A variety store, where the old ladies might send their knitting & plain sewing, and the young ladies their embroidery & fancy articles, & mechanics, shoemakers &c. whatever that had to dispose of in their line. It might be small at first



but in a little time I think a good sized room might be filled. Societies & individuals might pledge themselves to contribute so much annually, and thus have a fund secured. I merely mention this, because it strikes me that it would be a good way of raising money, but you know much better than I, how to tax the labor ingenuity & humors of the abolitionists, and to take advantage of the wants of the public.

I was delighted with the Liberty Bell. I think it was a very fine idea to get it up for the Fair, and to continue it for an Annual. I think it may be made more interesting than all the other Annuals, and with but little effort on the part of the writers. Many of them are among the first writers in our country. What fiction can be more interesting than Aunt Rebecca, or Charity Bonemy, or what can be prettier than some of the poetry. The Sonnet to Lovejoy is a noble piece. I lent the book immediately (Maria said it was wrong to lend such a beautiful book, but I could not help it I wanted to gather all Hingham together & read every piece to them), and so I do not remember every piece but I well remember yours and thank you for it. Mr. Smith says that I must thank you for the books that you sent him, until he has time to write, which he hopes to have very soon. Maria also says that I must thank you for her "Wrongs of Africa". She insists upon it that the poetry is better than American poetry of the same kind, but whether it is really so, or whether it is because the book is a present from you I will not decide.

I have much to say to you about the division that is made in the Female A. S. Society to which you belong. But so little can be said upon the subject in a letter, that I hardly know whether to speak of it at all. I sincerely regret it, & cannot but think that the blame is <sup>now</sup> all on one side. Still as much as I love the names that are in the minority, and as much reason as I have to respect their integrity, their high mindedness, & Christian



principles still I fear for them, it is so difficult to keep cool & calm & clear sighted while all is storm & rage & injustice around you. I fear for them, for in proportion to my love and respect for a person, is my regret if ~~they~~<sup>he</sup> do any thing wrong. I was struck with this feeling that I have, when I heard Messrs. Colver & Wright. I thought at the second discussion when Mr. W. was stating to the audience what his opponent attempted to do the evening before, and how he argued, that he was not quite just to Mr. C. and it gave me more pain than all the sarcasm & abuse that Colver heaped upon Mr. Wright. I sympathised so entirely with Mr. Wright and was so much pleased with his manner & his matter, that it pained me to see any thing that looked like imperfection in him. I could not bear to see him unjust in the slightest degree to his opponent. I have the same feeling towards your party that I had towards Mr. Wright, & I feel very apprehensive, that you will say or do something that to those who stand aside from the conflict, will appear wrong. I know they are tried souls, that they have not yet been found wanting, some I am personally acquainted with, & more by reputation; & as I said before, in proportion to my love & respect for them is my fear.

I regret also the course which the Liberator is taking in regard to individuals who belong to the new organization. I do not take up the paper with half the interest that I did before it was so filled with crimination & recrimination. I think we have abundant proof that the real abolitionists of the state, are not carried away by the arts and deceptions of the new society. If that is the case, if they deceive few but themselves, why not let them work their own woe by their crooked policy & not try to hasten their downfall. I am sure that none but the warmest partizans can be so much interested in the paper as it has been



filled for six or eight weeks past, as they were formerly. I am tired  
 of Mr Phelps's scrappish letters, & of the name of C. F. Torrey.  
 Mr. Smith and myself went up to Boston Friday, upon his visit,  
 & returned last evening. I started once to go to your sisters to see  
 if you would be in town yesterday, but I presumed you would not  
 until afternoon, and as we left at three, I thought it would  
 be useless to call. We attended Mr. Coombs's lecture at the Odeon  
 & I was disappointed in it. It was all <sup>well</sup> enough, but I did not learn  
 one new fact, unless it was that they would allow in the despotic gover-  
 nments of Europe, they would allow thoughts & sentiments to be published  
 in large Octavos, that they would not allow in cheap pamphlets.

C. F. Smith  
 1839  
 Mass.

Miss Caroline Weston

Boston

Miss Thaxter

have disappointed in his [illegible] looks. He did not look half  
 so [illegible] as I thought he would. We are [illegible] much attached to our [illegible]  
 Mr. Stearns. He is no "scare-blot" as you say sometimes of people who  
 attend the A. S. meeting, regarding & reasoning from the [illegible] in  
 his public sermons. Do write to me when you have time. I feel that  
 I ought not to expect a letter from you, your house is much  
 [illegible] the time. We had [illegible] [illegible] from the [illegible] [illegible]  
 [illegible] [illegible] you were [illegible] with him. I am with much [illegible] [illegible]

Ms. A. 9.2.12.10